

# BEKI Bulletin

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February 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 2

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Adar I 5763

## ***A Message From President Gila Reinstein***

### ***Renovations Update***

Plans for Phase II Building Renovations are evolving nicely, thanks to information supplied by our architect and other specialists—and thanks to the many good ideas proposed by congregants. Because the shul belongs to all of us, the Renovations Committee is trying to get input from as many people as possible. The committee considers all suggestions carefully, and for that reason, the design keeps changing and getting better and better. As you know, we have held two general congregation-wide meetings and quite a few small gatherings focused on specific aspects of the project, such as the kitchen and safety issues. Every one of those meetings has resulted in improvements to the design—improvements that will save us money and give us a better outcome.

Why are we going to the expense and trouble of renovating BEKI?

We have three primary goals.

- To create a main entrance from the parking lot that is safe, accessible and beautiful. The current driveway doorway will be retained only as an emergency exit
- To provide an elevator for those who cannot manage the stairs to the large social hall
- To make the building more safe and efficient by clustering offices near the entrances and lobby

## ***Meet Anne Johnston***

Anne Johnston arrived at BEKI in the summer of 1994. She and her husband Robert had chosen BEKI because they were looking for a congregation where “they wouldn’t need to be leaders.” Prior to coming to New Haven, Anne had led fam-



*Anne & Robert Johnston with sons Sandy and Isaac*

ily services and taught Jewish adult education at Congregation Havurah Shalom in Portland, Oregon; taught in the Combined Hebrew School of the Sioux City, Iowa, Jewish community; co-founded and taught in the Holiday Workshops of Congregation B’nai Israel, Council Bluffs, Iowa/Omaha, Nebraska.

*Continued on page 5*

*Continued on page 6*

## Humming Along

When I first lead services as a bar mitzva at the Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, MN, Rabbi Raskas said to me in his charge, "Jon-Jay, someday you may be a rabbi. You certainly will never be a cantor."

Just a few days before, when I sang the first line of Qiddush to the cantor, the cantor said, "That was very nice. Which one of those keys do you intend to use on Friday night?"

When I was younger, I wanted to learn to play the bass and to play in a jazz band, but after my first lesson the instructor gave my mother a full refund and suggested I consider other career options.

Fortunately, my rabbis and teachers were always encouraging, despite my lack of musical talent. Most of the males in the Tilsen line seem to lack the gene that activates musical ability. One of my brothers has been declared legally tone-deaf by the State of Minnesota. Fortunately, my own children seem to have their mother's musical abilities.

At Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, my cabinmate David Blumenstein would give me hand signals during services to tell me whether to raise or lower my pitch. If the deaf can speak, the tone-deaf can sing. It just takes more effort, creative teachers, and patience.

All of our services at BEKI, including High Holy Days, are lead by our members. Some are musically talented or gifted. Others are not.

While the music of prayer may serve to heighten spiritual sensitivity of worshipers, and while it serves the aim of *hidur mitzva* (performing a commandment in a beautiful way), it is not the most important element of the service. The Shulhan Arukh, the 16th century Code of Law, provides (O.H. 53):

A *shaliah tsibbur* sometimes lengthens his

prayers so that the congregation will hear his beautiful voice. If he does so and is happy to give respect to God in his pleasantness, well and good, as long as he prays with dignity and stands with awe and respect; but if his sole intent is to make his own voice heard and he rejoices only in the sound of his own voice, this is despicable. In any case one who drags out his prayers does not do well in so doing as it is a burden to the congregation (O.H. 53).



Rabbi Tilsen

The same code notes four qualifications for a hazzan, only one of which relates to musical quality:

The *shaliah tsibbur* (that is, the public's representative to God, the cantor) should be respectable, meaning free of sin and having an unblemished reputation even from childhood; he should be modest and happy, and have a pleasant voice. When one possessing these qualities cannot be found, one steeped in wisdom & good deeds should be chosen.

In our congregation, we value participation and wish to involve many people in learning and leading the services. As a learning community, we are tolerant and understanding of error as people improve their technique. As a loving community, we are forgiving of misstep.

Vocal and musical ability are to some extent God-given, and for that reason I have come to accept myself for my limited singing ability during prayer. If anyone were to complain about my voice at prayer, I would just tell him or her that "I wasn't praying to *you*."

## A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

The different ways that we learn, as children and as adults, continues to amaze me. The Sixth and Seventh grade classes at the Religious School are making a time line of Israel; some students enjoy the historic research. "It's 1922; what are the five most important facts about that year?" Some students love the artwork and illustrations. Some people have the "people skills." I call them the "nudges" or the "encouragers." Their task is to keep everyone focused and on task.

In my home, it is the same and it is very different. My husband and I share a deep love of literature and films. We could not wait to read the book "Rabbit Proof Fence" and see the film on the aborigines in Australia and the courage of three little girls. When we read together he hands me the history and literature sections and I willingly hand off anything science related.

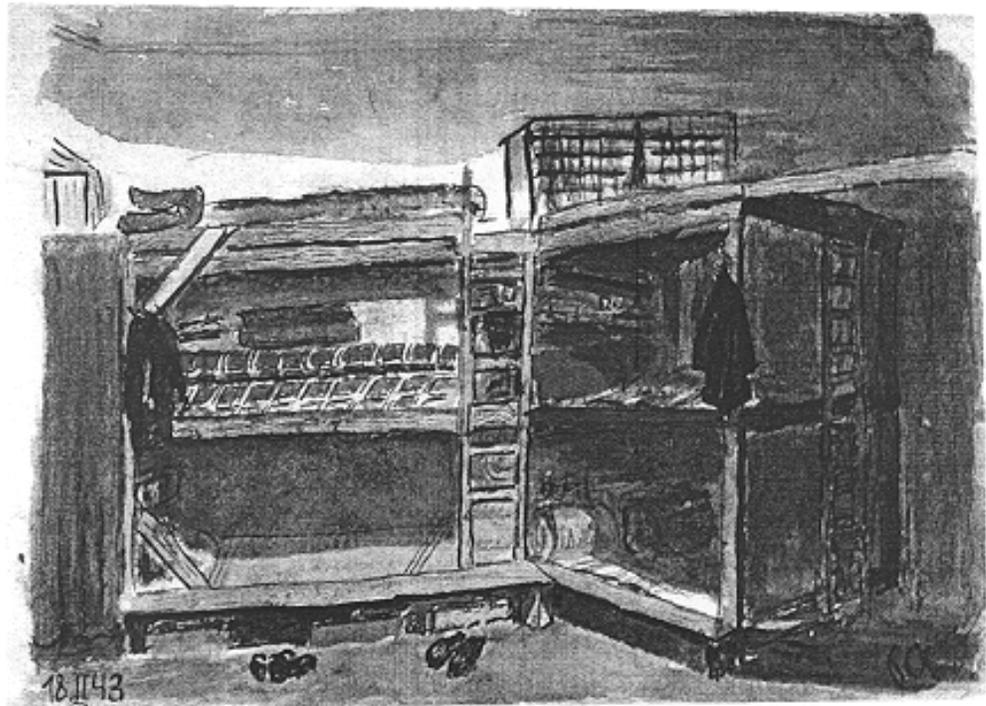
This past weekend, the Times ran an article on the latest space launch. I was especially interested because one of the astronauts is Jewish. I had studied with our Religious School children the astronaut's biography in *BabaGanewz*, our monthly newsletter on text and Jewish life. The astronaut is Colonel Ilan Ramon. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor of Auschwitz. When interviewed about what he is taking to space he stated, "I decided to take something with me into space that would symbolize the Holocaust survivors and those who did not survive. I'm taking a painting by Peter Ginz, a 14-year-old Jewish boy, who died at Auschwitz during the Holocaust. He painted a picture of what the Earth

looks like from the moon. That was back in the 1940's, before any human being had traveled into space. It was his vision, his imagination."



Dr. Lauren Kempton

I know this boy, or more accurately, know of him. He is one of my heroes and his is a powerful story. He was taken to Terezin and was the leader of a group of young teens who lived in Home Schools at Terezin. The boys, protected by the Judenrat, studied daily: art, music, literature and science. Risking their lives at night, they copied drawings, poetry and art for their secret magazine, *Vedem*, "In the Lead." Petr was both "the nudge" and the editor. Their 300-page book was hidden and was not published until the Czech Republic was free, for it was deemed Zionist propaganda. Petr was taken to Auschwitz in September 1944 and perished. But his amazing spirit and imagination live, and now more of the world will



Drawing from Terezin

know his story of resistance. (If you would like to know more about Petr Ginz, I have *Vedem* in my office.)

## Renovations Update

*Continued from page 1*

Secondary goals include the following.

- To expand and beautify the lobby
- To create a worship space that accommodates 75-100 people and can be used for weddings and for our growing junior congregation
- To improve energy efficiency and improve building comfort
- To repair or replace heating and cooling distribution equipment
- To replace carpeting and worn or broken flooring in a cost-effective manner

Along the way, we'll get a few nice extras, like an outdoor play area for the Children's Shabbat Havura, a coatroom with easier access, a museum-style display case, and other amenities. New carpets, maple wainscoting and better lighting will enhance the entrance area and make the building brighter, friendlier and easier to maintain.

Under the current plan, the Sisterhood Gift Shop will remain where it is, and the kitchen walls and appliances will not be moved. We will retain the dumbwaiter. If we can afford it, we would like to replace the ovens and fix the warming tables.

The scope and timing of the Phase II renovations is still dependant on the cost figures, which are subject to review and require approval of the Board of Directors. At that point, we will begin a public fundraising campaign. We expect the scope of the campaign to be \$850,000, or \$1.05 million if parking area and other site improvements are included. The figures include construction costs for Phase I & II and related capital expenses. Although we expect these renovations to be enjoyed for many years to come, we do not want to impose a heavy burden of debt payment or maintenance costs on the next generation.

We are currently envisioning starting construction shortly after the High Holy Days (Fall 2003). Most construction would be complete within four months. During that time, parts of the building will be unavailable for our use, but we expect to maintain our core functions without too much interruption. As we get closer to the start-up, we'll keep you posted.

Preliminary fundraising for the project has begun, and some people have made generous pledges and gifts. Most members have not yet been contacted or finalized a pledge. A fundraising campaign will begin once a sufficient level of backing is assured and the construction planning is completing and approved. Please, when you are called upon, do the best you can. You can spread your donation over a few years, if necessary.

This is an exciting project—one that will improve the shul we love and give it many more years of life. Thanks for being part of the BEKI family and working with me and the whole Renovations Committee to make our dream a reality.

Renovations Committee members are John Weiser (Co-Chairperson), Gila Reinstein, Natan Weinstein, Hugh Fryer, Roz Ben-Chitrit, Robert Forbes, Alan Lovins, Don Green, Ken Buckman, Paula Hyman, Linden Grazier-Zerbarini, Brian Karsif, Isaiah Cooper, Paul Goodwin and Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen. Many others serve on task forces and as advisors. Eric Beller, of blessed memory, served as Co-Chairperson.

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**Meet Anne Johnston**

*Continued from page 1*

Since joining our community, she has served as the Education Director at Congregation Or Shalom and as an Educational Consultant for United Synagogue, Connecticut Valley Region. She has taught at Or Shalom, BEKI, Makom, and Midrasha. Following Rabbi Tilsen's vision, she helped to establish BEKI's Kulanu K'Ehad and Saul's Circle programs for Jewish adults with special needs, and participated in an interfaith task force on outreach to mental health consumers.

In the summers, Anne and her family attend the National Havurah Institute, an annual Jewish retreat, where she has taught and directed the Children's Program. Outside of Jewish education, she has taught in special education programs from preschool to adult education, as well as teaching English as a Second Language, college composition and public speaking, early childhood education, and GED preparation.

In her wilder youth, Anne worked for a Nicaraguan solidarity organization and was a founding member of a collective for a feminist newspaper. Anne and her family spent the 2001-2002 year on sabbatical in Jerusalem, where she studied at the Conservative Yeshiva and taught English to the third graders at Isaac's bilingual/binational (Jewish/Arab) school. She currently teaches special education students at BEKI and New Haven Hebrew Day School through the support of the Federation, serves as the BEKI family educator, teaches at Makom and Midrasha, as well as doing private tutoring. In her spare time she homeschools Sandy, reads murder mysteries and almost anything on

Israel, and renovates her house in preparation for next summer's move to Chicago.

Anne has been married to Robert for almost 19 years. Anne and Robert met working on John Anderson's presidential campaign in 1980, their senior year of high school. They have two sons, Isaac, age 6, a kindergartener at Ezra, and Sandy, age 14, an 8th grader at the Johnston Family Homeschool. Their family also includes Jerusalem the Cat, rescued from the streets of his namesake city.

*LK et al.*

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# LifeCycle

**With sorrow we note the passing of**

**Grace Pierce Forbes**, mother of Robert Forbes (& Joanne Foodim)

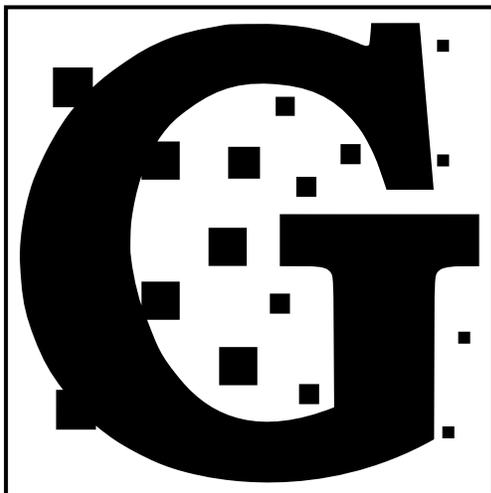
**Ruth Wasby Feldman**, great-aunt of Robert (& Anne) Johnston

**Joseph Wiener**, uncle of Stanton (& Marjorie) Wiener

## Mazal Tov to

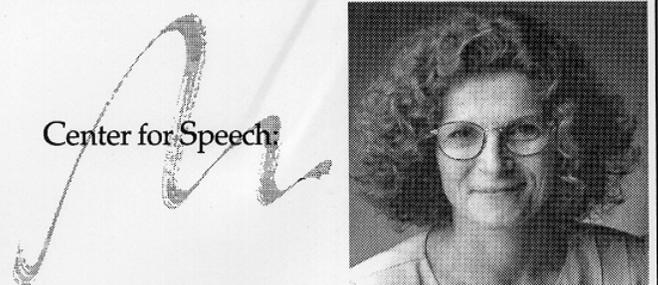
- Sara Labowe & Steven Stoll on the birth of their son Jaden Nathaniel Labowe Stoll on 25 December 2002. The baby was entered into the covenant through the rite of brit mila on Wednesday 1 January 2003 at BEKI.
- Beth Weinstein, daughter of Natan & Lori Weinstein, on her graduation from the University of New Haven. Her grandfather, adjunct professor Bernard Bober, presented her diploma.

*Births, Baby Event and Benei Mitzva Notices can be found on BEKI's website [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) in the Lifecycle section.*



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## Dear Rabbi

Dear Rabbi,

The seven-day memorial candle has burned down and shiva is over. What do I do with the used candle? Do I just throw it in the trash or does it have to be buried?

Signed,  
Burned Down

Dear Outa Wax,

The seven-day memorial candle serves as a reminder and symbol that residents of the house in which it burns are in mourning. It is the human soul, and not the mere body, that is the real treasure. The light of the candle is the symbol of that soul, the glass holder merely the body. Our tradition is to treat the lifeless body with the utmost dignity, and to respect the natural processes that ultimately rule us. When the mourning period is over, we must force ourselves to get on with life. I suggest the glass candleholder be recycled, which is the inanimate object's equivalent of reincarnation.

Dear Rabbi,

Don't the smoke detectors, security cameras and alarms at the synagogue violate Shabbat rules?

Signed,  
Detected & Alarmed

Dear Alarmed,

The smoke and fire detectors used at BEKI, which are typical of those used in our area, are fully compliant with Shabbat regulations. These alarms passively detect smoke and fire. The only way for them to be activated is for someone to set a fire. Setting fire to the furniture on Shabbat would definitely be a violation of Shabbat restrictions. The Shabbat violation of intentionally activating the alarm would be only of secondary significance.

We employ security cameras and alarms at BEKI, and they are of some concern. If the security video system is left on, then a person walking by the camera will send an electric signal that will create an image on a monitor. Likewise, even when our alarm system is unarmed, walking in the lobby or in a hallway activates the motion detector, and causes a red or green light to blink on the sensor

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## Rotation Schedule

The "Master Rotation List" for Shabbat & Festival service participation was mailed in mid-December to some member households. Additional copies are available from the office at 389-2108 x14, in the literature rack, or at [www.beki.org/rotate.html](http://www.beki.org/rotate.html). The list is the schedule of services and programs to be lead by volunteers. If you would like to lead a children's or adult service, or learn to do so, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)).

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or control unit or both. The purpose of the light blinking is to indicate that the sensor is working and to indicate to a person monitoring the system that someone is in the zone monitored by the given detector.

On Shabbat, the video security monitor is not being watched, nor is the central alarm panel. The person passing by the camera or sensor has no intent or desire to activate the monitor or blink a light. There is no benefit to anyone, no meaning, to the video image or the blinking light. There is no violation of Biblical law, although there is infringement on Rabbinic ordinances. The *halakhic* category is “*pesiq resha delo niha lei*,” an inevitable result that is of no consequence or of no benefit. It is perhaps similar to the idea of a “tree falling in the forest that no one hears.”

When we installed the security system at BEKI, there was no suitable system available that did not have “blinking lights” and other electric signals even when the system was unarmed. Had such an inert system been available, it would certainly have been preferred. The advantages of having the security system outweighed the consideration

of its entanglement in operating electric equipment on Shabbat, inasmuch as there is no specific significant violation of Shabbat rules.

Were we to hold the opinion that knowingly causing a motion detector or video monitor signal by walking in a monitored area on Shabbat was strictly prohibited, we would find life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century untenable. CIA, military and weather-mapping satellites are constantly viewing us with remarkably high resolution. When you walk down Whalley Avenue, somebody up there is watching you. You may be tracked by an orbiting sensor, traffic camera, or bank security camera. It is unavoidable, especially in urban settings.

One situation at BEKI, however, does present a problem of Shabbat observance. One of the doors on the driveway entrance is operated by an electric motion detector. This situation will be obviated during the Phase 2 building renovations, which may take place later this year. In the meantime, we recommend that the exit door on the left, as marked, be used on Shabbat.

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## ***Where There's a Will...***

Wills and estate plans are not just for the wealthy. Financial advisors suggest that anyone with children – regardless of age – and anyone who cares what happens to their financial resources or property after their death, must have a formal will or estate plan. Even if a donor leaves just 10% or 5% or even 1% to BEKI, it can make a big impact on the Congregation's future. Designating BEKI as a beneficiary in one's will demonstrates to one's heirs and neighbors the importance of *tzedaqa*

(charity), of BEKI, and of the continuity of the Jewish People.

*If you would like information on including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please contact your financial advisor or estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 ([sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) or David Tein at The Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 ([dtein@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:dtein@jewishnewhaven.org)) for a confidential discussion.*

# BEKI Events

## *February - Shevat - Adar I*

**5763**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						29 Shevat <span style="float: right;">1</span>
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org website: www:beki.org		Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33		9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 4:50p Minha, Avot 5:45p Maariv & Havdala - Family Education Program
30 Shevat <span style="float: right;">2</span>	1 Adar I <span style="float: right;">3</span>	2 Adar I <span style="float: right;">4</span>	3 Adar I <span style="float: right;">5</span>	4 Adar I <span style="float: right;">6</span>	5 Adar I <span style="float: right;">7</span>	6 Adar I <span style="float: right;">8</span>
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:58p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Special Guest</i> <i>Kiddush Sponsors: Gloria &amp; Morris Cohen</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:00p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
7 Adar I <span style="float: right;">9</span>	8 Adar I <span style="float: right;">10</span>	9 Adar I <span style="float: right;">11</span>	10 Adar I <span style="float: right;">12</span>	11 Adar I <span style="float: right;">13</span>	12 Adar I <span style="float: right;">14</span>	13 Adar I <span style="float: right;">15</span>
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv 6:15p Principles of Judaism	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:07p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Special Guest</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 5:10p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
14 Adar I <span style="float: right;">16</span>	15 Adar I <span style="float: right;">17</span>	16 Adar I <span style="float: right;">18</span>	17 Adar I <span style="float: right;">19</span>	18 Adar I <span style="float: right;">20</span>	19 Adar I <span style="float: right;">21</span>	20 Adar I <span style="float: right;">22</span>
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Maariv	<i>Presidents' Day</i> 9:00a Shaharit 9:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:16p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Special Guest</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:15p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
21 Adar I <span style="float: right;">23</span>	22 Adar I <span style="float: right;">24</span>	23 Adar I <span style="float: right;">25</span>	24 Adar I <span style="float: right;">26</span>	25 Adar I <span style="float: right;">27</span>	26 Adar I <span style="float: right;">28</span>	
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 12:30p Purim Shpiel Tryouts 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:24p Candles 6:00p Maariv 6:00p Family Education Dinner (RSVP)	

## Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

### Pirqa Avot

Mishna Avot, also known as *Pirqa Avot* or Ethics of the Fathers, is studied at BEKI each Shabbat afternoon between the *minha* and *maariv* services during the winter months. Everyone is welcome.

### Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meets in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome.

### AA Meeting Thursdays at 8:00p

The Thursday night [AA meeting](#) has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This

is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. The meeting now features a speaker. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019.

### Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan for adults meets in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) every second Shabbat (Saturday) morning year-round from 10:45a to noon. The SSLM meets on the 8th and 22nd of February. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays from 12:30p to 1:30p at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For many participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. For information contact Marc Schwartz at 562-9873 or [mschwartzmd@hotmail.com](mailto:mschwartzmd@hotmail.com).

<p><b>JEWISH FOUNDATION</b></p>  <p><i>of Greater New Haven</i></p> <p><b>MARK G. SKLARZ</b> CHAIRMAN</p> <p><b>DAVID TEIN</b> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p> <p>360 AMITY ROAD, WOODBRIIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 387-2424 EXT. 304</p>	<p><b>THE PLANNED GIVING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN.</b></p>
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## Kulanu

Kulanu participants are pleased to welcome Aaron Almendral as the new Supervisor of Recreation for Chapel Haven. He and Dr. Kempton have planned the programming through June with Chapel Haven. Similar to the activities at Fellowship Place, the focus in February was on "Martin's Big Words," the inspirational messages of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event on 10 February examines the Black-Jewish Alliance during the Civil Rights era.

Kulanu is BEKI's unique congregational outreach program for adults with developmental disabilities. For information on Kulanu, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org).

## Megilla Readers Needed

If you would like to read Megillat Ester (the Book of Esther) on Purim at BEKI, or learn how to, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 Reading at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) at your earliest opportunity.

## Torah Readers Wanted

Marsha Beller is coordinating Shabbat Morning Torah Readings for *Shemot* (Exodus). If you would like to read Torah on a Shabbat morning during the winter, or would like to learn how to read Torah, please contact Marsha (387-4657 or [mbellereco@aol.com](mailto:mbellereco@aol.com)). If you would like to plan to read Torah on a Shabbat afternoon or Monday morning, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)).

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## **20s-30s Havura at BEKI**

Jewish singles and couples in their 20s and 30s are invited to contact BEKI member Valerie Sandler (777-4784 or [valerie.sandler@yale.edu](mailto:valerie.sandler@yale.edu)) or Mary Ellen Mack (389-2108 x14 or [beki@snet.net](mailto:beki@snet.net)) for information on special events of interest. BEKI's 20s-30s Havura is primarily for adults without children, and meets about once a month at BEKI for Shabbat services, dinner and *shmoozing* and informal discussion. People with children are encouraged to contact Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org)) or Mary Ellen Mack (389-2108 x14 or [beki@snet.net](mailto:beki@snet.net)) for information on the Children's Shabbat Havura and other activities of special interest.

## **Audio Library on Web**

Various blessings and prayers are recorded for educational purposes on BEKI's web site. Shabbat, Hanuka, and daily liturgical selections are presented. To hear the selections, go to [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html).

## **Saul's Circle**

February finds the participants of Saul's Circle heavily involved in learning. Following up on the sessions, "Abraham: Father of Three Faiths," the study group moved to the specific study of the tenets of Judaism. On 6 February, Fellowship Place hosts a presentation celebrating the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. The Saul's Circle community will study the quotations of both of these great leaders. They also viewed a video entitled, "Israel Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King." The video portrayed Dr. King speaking in Israel and the response of Israeli high school students to the news of his assassination.

## **Divrei Torah on the Web**

Divrei Torah by Benot Mitzva Sarah Grazier-Zebarini and Gilah Benson-Tilsen are available at BEKI's website under "[Adult Studies](#)."

*Tree of Life Photo by Melanie Stangel*

### **Purim Basket Orders Accepted**

**Orders for Purim Baskets are now being accepted. Forms are available in the literature rack in the lobby and from the office.**

## **BEKI Religious School**

This month we highlight the activities of Grade Two.

The teacher is Mindy Schultz. The Grade Two class has settled into a nice routine of worship, Holiday study, Hebrew and Arts and Crafts projects related to their learning. The class has mastered all the vowels and seven consonants in Hebrew. They studied the trees of Israel in preparation for our Tu BeShevat *sefer*. The Second Grade proudly created the centerpieces and place mats for their parents for the Qabbalat Shabbat for Tu BeShevat.

## **Benei Mitzva Program**

The Benei Mitzva class has undertaken a great deal of work this year. The class has learned the Torah and Haftara blessings. Additionally, students have become proficient in the Torah Service for Shabbat mornings or Shabbat afternoons. We are now beginning to embark on our study of the Musaf Service.

Students and tutors are working well together. Students have begun their Torah and Haftara portions.

AS

## **Cemetery Cleanup**

Volunteers are needed to clean and tend the [Beth El Memorial Park](#) and [Keser Israel Memorial Park](#). One hour once a month is needed at each cemetery. To volunteer please contact David Sagerman at 389-2108 x57 or [davdorsagerman@webtv.net](mailto:davdorsagerman@webtv.net), or contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly (KINAHARA™) promotes the knowledge and observance of Kashrut. See [www.kinahara.org](http://www.kinahara.org) for more information.